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**Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits**

# Main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

## Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.**

* A/73/50.
** The report is being issued without formal editing.

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# Report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

## Introduction

1. This report responds to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision 2011/217, in which the Council invited the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to transmit to ECOSOC every year a report on the main decisions, policy recommendations, and the results achieved by the Committee in the area of food security and nutrition, in accordance with its roles and vision. More information regarding the roles and vision of the Committee can be found in documents A/66-76-E/2011/102 and A/65/73/-E/2010/51. The report describes the main outcomes and decisions taken by the Forty-fourth Session of CFS held in October 2017 and, where relevant, provides updates on follow-up action. The Final Report of the Session is available at http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv030e.pdf. The Forty-fifth Session of CFS will take place on 15–20 October 2018.

## Main decisions, recommendations and results

### Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition

2. The CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) presented in 2017 a report on *Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition*. The evidence-based report was used as the basis for a policy discussion that led to the elaboration of policy recommendations that were endorsed by the CFS plenary and are provided in annex to this report, as well as in the Final Report of the Forty-fourth Session of CFS.

3. Forests play an important role for food security and nutrition (FSN) by contributing to dietary quality and diversity, serving as a safety net in times of scarcity, shocks and crises, generating income for local people and providing essential ecosystem services; however deforestation driven by land use conversion for agriculture has adverse impacts on the environment, local communities and indigenous peoples. Sustainable agriculture, food security and improved nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy, sustainable and productive forest and tree ecosystems.

4. In this context, and in complementarity with the recently adopted United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the recommendations aim to strengthen the contribution of sustainable management of forests and trees to the achievement of food security and nutrition and to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the overall context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing the essential role of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), and the role of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), they call for gender-sensitive implementation which addresses the specific needs of indigenous peoples, local communities and smallholders.

5. CFS endorsed policies and actions that, in summary:

- Acknowledge the importance of, raise awareness on, and encourage strengthening of the role of forests and trees to the four dimensions of FSN;
- Develop and use policy-relevant knowledge and data on the direct and indirect contributions of forests and trees to FSN;
- Develop, implement and monitor policies for integrated agriculture and forest management for improved and sustainable FSN;
- Promote the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

6. The Committee encourages all stakeholders to disseminate the recommendations at the local, national and global levels, make use of and support their application when formulating strategies, policies and programmes, as appropriate, and encouraged these policy recommendations to be forwarded to relevant policy bodies including the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

**CFS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

7. The Committee discussed findings from the 2017 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report and expressed concern about the increase in the number of chronically undernourished people in the world, up from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. This, together with rising rates of overweight and obesity, threatens the world's ability to achieve SDG2 and related targets by 2030. The Committee called on all stakeholders to accelerate efforts to address the root causes (conflict, climate change and protracted crises being among the most prominent) of such devastation, and to contribute to the recovery and resilience of societies, particularly by strengthening sustainable food systems. In this respect, governments and all stakeholders are encouraged to use and apply CFS policy products, and in particular the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA).

8. Six countries [1] among the 43 Voluntary National Reviews in HLPF 2017 presented at CFS their national experiences towards the SDGs related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Encouraging steps are taken to reform policies, improve the overall sustainability of food systems and ensure national food security and nutrition through diverse, holistic approaches. However, important challenges remain, such as addressing simultaneously all forms of malnutrition; supporting small-scale food producers to overcome poverty and adopt more productive and sustainable practices; improving the overall economic, social and environmental sustainability of food systems; and addressing regional and/or rural-urban inequalities and the lack of rural infrastructure. Common lessons learned stressed the importance of political leadership, multistakeholder processes and effective partnerships, the importance of disaggregated data and monitoring, and capacity building. The Committee renewed its call to all countries to apply integrated policy frameworks such as the CFS products to achieve the SDGs.

[1] These countries were: Azerbaijan, Belgium, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Italy and Sweden.

9. The Committee noted the 2017 HLPF Ministerial Declaration which reiterates the crucial role that sustainable food systems can play in eradicating poverty and hunger. It endorsed its contribution to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018 review "Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies", pending its update with the outcomes of CFS 44 discussions.

**CFS and Nutrition**

10. The CFS HLPE launched its independent, evidence-based report on Nutrition and Food Systems. The findings and recommendations of the report were discussed.

11. FAO and WHO jointly presented the Committee with a progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. The Committee welcomed the announcement of the first SMART commitments and the launch of action networks, and encouraged all stakeholders to step up efforts, in accordance with the Nutrition Decade Work Programme.

12. The Committee discussed good practices and lessons learned on investments for healthy food systems through the presentation of case-studies. These stressed the importance of aligning policies and investments aimed at healthy food systems across sectors through strong political commitment and participation of all value chain actors and of women in particular, who play a central role in food systems.

13. The Committee considered the outcome of intersessional discussions and activities and agreed on CFS' contribution to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. As part of such contribution, it decided to start substantive discussions in 2018–2019 to develop terms of reference for submission to Plenary in CFS 45 for a policy convergence process leading to voluntary guidelines for food systems and nutrition, informed by the HLPE Report on Nutrition and Food Systems and other activities. The objective of the work in 2018 is to clarify the objective, scope and purpose of the policy convergence work, identify the main thematic areas, in line with CFS mandate and added value, with clear indications on the expected results, primary users and modalities of dissemination in the context of the Nutrition Decade Work Programme.

**Outcomes of the Forum on Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food security and Nutrition**

14. A Forum on Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition took place shortly before CFS 44 to discuss the challenges that remain in realizing women's empowerment and to promote a shared understanding of the need to achieve gender equality and the full realization of women's rights in the context of food security and nutrition. The Plenary took note of its outcomes[2] and particularly drew attention to the need for governments to translate their commitments into national policies, programmes, investments and adequate human and financial resources; called on all to work towards the implementation of UN General Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), especially its General Recommendation 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women; and emphasized the importance of mainstreaming gender equality, women's and girls' rights and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition in all CFS work streams, products and documents.

[2] Available here: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/bodies/CFS_44/MU756_7/MU756_CFS_2017_44_7_en.pdf.

**Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition**

15. The Committee was presented with a compilation of experiences and effective policy approaches on "Addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics" aimed to support a discussion leading to possible future policy convergence and coordination work. Areas were identified as requiring further attention and exploratory work will continue in the intersessional period through the organization of two intersessional events, to support a decision in CFS 45 on future policy work on food security and nutrition within the context of changing rural-urban dynamics.

**Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) — Periodic Update**

16. The Committee welcomed the finalization of the periodic update of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition — 2017 Edition, as well as the creation of the online GSF as a functional, user-friendly tool.

17. The Committee encouraged all CFS stakeholders to undertake actions at the national, regional and global levels that would facilitate the dissemination and promote the use of the GSF.

**Monitoring the Effectiveness of CFS**

18. The Committee agreed on an approach to monitor the implementation of its main policy products and other policy recommendations. Global thematic events on CFS will take place in CFS Plenary every two years to monitor main policy products; events will be held on an ad-hoc basis to monitor other CFS policy recommendations according to their relevance to the global agenda and resource availability.

**Response to the independent evaluation of CFS**

19. The Committee was presented with the findings of the independent evaluation of CFS, released in May 2017, and endorsed a consultation report with the response to part of the recommendations of the CFS evaluation in October 2017 at CFS 44. The Committee requested the Bureau, after consultation with the advisory group and in an open, participative and inclusive process, to finalise the response to the evaluation and submit it to CFS 45 for endorsement, and to implement the response to all recommendations which do not require plenary endorsement and report to CFS 45.

20. The Committee further issued guidance for the Bureau's consideration in its task to implement the response to the evaluation. It stressed the need to: ensure links between CFS work and the broader political agenda and synergy with complementary initiatives; adopt a longer-term and more strategic approach based on expected results; ensure a comprehensive planning phase for selecting future work; lay emphasis on awareness of CFS products at country level through the commitment of all stakeholders; ensure a transparent selection of HLPE team members; revisit the composition of the Advisory Group as needed for it to fulfil its role, remaining open to all relevant actors with the parameters set by the CFS Reform document.

**Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition**

21. The Committee was presented with the second HLPE note on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition, released in April 2017.

**Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2018–2019**

22. The Committee adopted its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for the biennium 2018–2019.

23. The work of CFS over 2018–2019 will focus on:

- Finalising a Plan of Action and implementing the responses to the CFS independent evaluation
- Developing policy guidance on Nutrition and Food Systems. To this effect, terms of reference will be presented to CFS 45, outlining the scope, nature of the policy instrument, and inclusive process to develop it
- Assess the feasibility of policy convergence work to support countries address food security and nutrition in a context of changing rural urban dynamics
- Supporting country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and global progress review
- Monitoring the use and application of CFS policy recommendations through Global Thematic Events. These will focus on: the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (CFS 45, 2018) and preparations for an event on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS 47, 2020)

24. The Committee commissioned two reports from the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) to be released in the next biennium:

- A report on *Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda* will be launched in 2018.

25. This report will examine the innovative potential that multistakeholder partnerships offer to increase the effectiveness of development finance, access to resources, technology transfer, and capacity building in the context of the 2030 Agenda. It will draw lessons from the variety of multi-sectoral partnerships that are (or have been) operational in connection to food security and nutrition.

- A report on *Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition* will be presented in 2019.

**Report of the Forty-fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 9–13 October 2017)**

26. The full Final Report of the Forty-fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 9 to 13 October 2017, can be found at the following link: http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv030e.pdf

27. The Report includes Appendix A — Agenda of the Session; Appendix B — Membership of the Committee; Appendix C — List of Documents.

## Annex. CFS Policy Recommendations

### SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

1. Forests and trees,[3] in their diversity of ecosystems and human perceptions and uses, contribute directly and indirectly to food security and nutrition (FSN) in numerous ways and at different levels. These contributions vary according to types of forests and the way they are managed. Forest foods contribute to dietary quality and diversity and serve as safety nets in periods of food scarcity to those directly depending on forests for their livelihoods. They also play a role as coping mechanisms in terms of shock and crises. Wild foods from forests provide nutritious food and diversity to diets to millions of rural women, men and children. Woodfuel is a primary source of energy for cooking and sterilizing water for one in three households globally. Forests generate income for local people and provide essential ecosystem services that are essential for sustainable agriculture by regulating water flows, stabilizing soils, maintaining soil fertility, regulating the climate and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.

2. However, land use conversion for agriculture driven by increased demand and land degradation remains the main cause of global deforestation, accounting for 70–80 percent[4] of total forest loss and with adverse impacts on the environment and millions of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders. Sustainable agriculture, food security and improved nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy, sustainable and productive forest and tree ecosystems.

3. The following recommendations have been elaborated building upon the main findings of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of CFS (HLPE) report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. They aim to strengthen the contributions of sustainable management of forests and trees to the achievement of food security and nutrition and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security in the overall context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the essential role of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), and the role of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The recommendations complement the recently adopted United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and build upon the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as applicable.

4. In addition and within this context, gender responsive implementation of the recommendations is important and thus the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, respecting their rights, and access to forest and land tenure, agriculture and forestry support services, capacity building, and fostering women's equal participation in decision making is essential to achieving food security and nutrition and should be mainstreamed across all policy recommendations.

[3] The category trees outside forests gathers a diversity of agriculture systems with very divergent scales and impact on FSN.

[4] State of the World's Forests, SOFO. FAO, 2016. HLPE report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, 2017.

5. These recommendations are particularly important to address the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders especially forest-dependent people who have a spiritual, cultural, social, political and economic relationship with forests. These include forest hunters, gatherers and workers. They are part of the group of smallholders who contribute significantly to global food production.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are primarily addressed to governments for public policies, but are also addressed to all stakeholders with a role in achieving food security and nutrition. The recommendations are voluntary and non-binding and aim to complement and not restate related guidance previously provided in other CFS policy products and recommendations.

### I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF, RAISE AWARENESS ON, AND ENCOURAGE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF FORESTS AND TREES TO THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF FSN[5]

a) Recognize the need to strengthen the contribution of forests and trees, within landscape mosaics, in the provision of fundamental ecosystem services to support agricultural production and restore land productivity;

b) Recognize and respect appropriate traditional practices and the key contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders when managing sustainably and in an integrated manner land, forests and trees while achieving FSN;

c) Recognize the vital role of forestry for livelihoods and sustainable development around the world.

### II. DEVELOP AND USE POLICY-RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND DATA ON THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORESTS AND TREES TO FSN

a) Take measures to inform and train FSN policy makers and practitioners about the importance of sustainable forest and trees management for FSN using participatory methodologies to generate knowledge about the contributions of forests and trees to FSN, at different spatial and temporal scales recognizing indigenous peoples a. d local ‹ ommunities and smallholders as holders of traditional knowledge;

b) Build the necessary capacities, and provide professional training and organizational changes needed for participatory research, better data collection and extension services;

c) Design metrics and collect data that are disaggregated by gender, age, and other social parameters;

d) Improve trans-sectorial, systemic data collection in FSN and forestry monitoring systems, on the use of wild foods (animals, plants, mushrooms) and forest products, including for nutritional content, dietary quality and diversity, poverty alleviation, health and medicinal purposes, as well as harvest impacts;

[5] The four dimensions of food security are: access, availability, utilization and stability.

e) Perform more research on the contribution of Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) to FSN and on relations between trees and agricultural productions in agroforestry systems, as well as knowledge on insufficiently explored diversity of forest genetic resources likely to meet human FSN needs.

## III. DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR POLICIES FOR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE FSN

States to:

a) Promote an integrated approach including the nexus among forestry, agriculture, water and FSN to strengthen policy coherence across sectors and at different scales, by reinforcing cross-sectoral coordination through a participatory and inclusive process;

b) Provide the institutional and financial requirements and policy support to integrate resilience-enhancing dimensions of forests and trees into agricultural and food security and nutrition policies and programs;

c) Respect, protect and fulfill the rights of women in the forestry and agricultural sectors and tackle gender disparities which negatively impact FSN;

d) Develop and promote participatory forest and trees policies and management planning and measures that enhance access to nutritionally important forest food products for indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders;

e) Promote forest conservation, regeneration of native forests and restoration of degraded forests, where appropriate, as well as the development of agroforestry systems;

f) Provide incentives for the provision of forest-based ecosystem services that benefit sustainable agriculture and FSN.

All stakeholders to:

g) Increase investment in research to establish, promote and upscale good practices in agriculture, forestry and agroforestry systems within integrated landscape mosaics;

h) Promote integrated planning and local adaptive management of landscapes, including community systems, acknowledging the multiple functions and uses of forests and trees that contribute to enhance resilience of landscapes, communities and livelihoods;

i) Promote a nutrition-sensitive approach to integrate the multiple goals of FSN, sustainable forest management, land use, and biodiversity conservation;

j) Encourage appropriate technical support, extension services and training to stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups;

k) Increase the coherence between agricultural productivity and forest conservation to lessen the pressure put on forests;

l) Mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment throughout forestry institutions, policy and programmes to promote women's leadership and access to and control over forest resources and income opportunities for achieving FSN;

m) Promote and integrate low-carbon, renewable energy schemes for FSN in sustainable forest management plans including on a small scale supported by the indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders to achieve multiple benefits such as adequate access to fuel for food preparation; and invest in social and technical innovations in particular to minimize health risks associated with the use of woodfuel;

n) Increase responsible public and private investments to support community-driven, forest-based enterprises for sustainable livelihoods.

## IV. PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES, AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (VGGT)

a) Promote forests, trees and farmlands-related policies, legislation and programmes based on the VGGT, that respect and secure the legitimate tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples;

b) Collaboratively develop VGGT-based initiatives with indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders to enhance the productivity and resilience of forests and tree-based systems, and incorporate these initiatives into policies, programmes and practices;

c) Facilitate access and sustainable use of forest and trees resources as well as access to markets [6] for indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders for the progressive realization of their right to adequate food in the context of national food security, national laws and legitimate tenure and resource use rights;

d) Apply the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) to all types and sizes of agricultural investments including fisheries, forests and livestock for enhancing food security and nutrition.

[6] In line with the CFS recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets.

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General Assembly

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**Seventy-third session**
Items 61 and 63 of the preliminary list*

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

# Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report was mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/93 and contains a list of specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations to which the provisions of the resolution apply and whose attention the Secretary-General drew to the resolution.

* A/73/50.

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1. By paragraph 20 of its resolution 72/93 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including resolution 72/93, since the circulation of his previous report (A/72/69).

2. In a letter dated 15 January 2018, the Secretary-General brought the resolution to the attention of the executive heads of the following specialized agencies and other international organizations and invited them to submit the information requested for inclusion in the report referred to in paragraph 1 above:

African Union

Association of Caribbean States

Caribbean Community

Caribbean Development Bank

Community of Sahelo-Saharan States

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

European Union

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Civil Aviation Organization

International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Labour Organization

International Maritime Organization

International Monetary Fund

International Telecommunication Union

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Organization of American States

Pacific Islands Forum

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

United Nations Population Fund

Universal Postal Union

World Bank

World Food Programme

World Health Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Meteorological Organization

World Tourism Organization

World Trade Organization

3. Summaries of the replies received from the international organizations concerned in response to the above-mentioned letter will be presented in document E/2018/___.

4. Summaries of additional replies received, together with such further information as may become available on relevant activities undertaken by the organizations concerned during the year, will be published in addenda to the report mentioned in paragraph 3 above.

5. In addition, the Secretary-General drew the attention of various departments and other units of the Secretariat to the resolution. Information received in that regard will also be included in the above-mentioned report.

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**Seventy-third session**
Item 141 of the preliminary list*
**Human resources management**

# Practice of the Secretary-General in disciplinary matters and cases of possible criminal behaviour, 1 July to 31 December 2017

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report is submitted in response to the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of its resolution 59/287 that Member States be informed on an annual basis about all actions taken in cases of established misconduct and/or criminal behaviour and the disciplinary action and, where appropriate, legal action taken in accordance with the established procedures and regulations. The present report covers a six-month period, from 1 July to 31 December 2017. Going forward, future reports will cover one calendar year.

The General Assembly is invited to take note of the report.

* A/73/50.

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of its resolution 59/287 that Member States be informed on an annual basis about all actions taken in cases of established misconduct and/or criminal behaviour in accordance with the established procedures and regulations. The report covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 2017.

2. In order to align the report of the Secretary General on the practice in disciplinary matters and cases of possible criminal behaviour with the other reports on human resources management matters, the present report covers a six-month period, from 1 July to 31 December 2017. Going forward, future reports will cover a 12-month period, the calendar year.

3. A broad overview of the administrative framework in disciplinary matters, including the new administrative instruction on unsatisfactory conduct, investigations and disciplinary matters (ST/AI/2017/1), is provided in section II so that the information provided in sections III and IV may be understood in context. By virtue of the transitional arrangements in ST/AI/2017/1, the new administrative instruction applies only to matters where the investigation commenced on or after 26 October 2017. Accordingly, all matters reported upon in the present report were governed by the administrative instruction on revised disciplinary measures and procedures (ST/AI/371, as amended by ST/AI/371/Amend.1).

4. Section III contains a summary of the cases of established misconduct during the reporting period. Section IV contains data reflecting the disposition of cases completed during the reporting period, including cases that did not result in the imposition of a disciplinary measure, and information about appeals of disciplinary measures imposed since 1 July 2009. Section IV also provides data on the number and nature of cases referred to the Office of Human Resources Management for action during the reporting period. As the present report covers only a six-month period, no comparative data is set out in section IV, but such data will be provided in the next 12-month report. Section V provides information on the practice of the Secretary-General in cases of possible criminal behaviour.

5. As envisaged in paragraph 17 of resolution 59/287, a consolidated information circular will be issued so that all staff of the Organization will be informed of the most common examples of misconduct and/or criminal behaviour and their disciplinary consequences, including any legal action, with due regard to the protection of the privacy of the staff members concerned.

# II. Overview of the administrative framework with respect to disciplinary matters

## A. Legislative framework governing the conduct of staff members[1]

6. Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations states that the "paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of

[1] Provisions relating to the status, rights and duties of staff members, and to disciplinary matters, can be found in the electronic version of the Human Resources Handbook (available at https://hr.un.org/handbook) under the categories "Duties, obligations and privileges" and "Administration of justice and disciplinary matters".

the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity".

7. Article I of the Staff Regulations and chapter I of the Staff Rules, both entitled "Duties, obligations and privileges", set out the basic values expected of international civil servants because of their status, as well as particular manifestations of such basic values (see, in particular, staff regulation 1.2 and staff rule 1.2).

8. Staff regulation 10.1 (a) provides that "the Secretary-General may impose disciplinary measures on staff members who engage in misconduct". Staff rule 10.1 (a) provides that the "failure by a staff member to comply with his or her obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules or other relevant administrative issuances or to observe the standards of conduct expected of an international civil servant may amount to misconduct and may lead to the institution of a disciplinary process and the imposition of disciplinary measures for misconduct".

9. In addition, staff rule 10.1 (c) provides that "the decision to launch an investigation into allegations of misconduct, to institute a disciplinary process and to impose a disciplinary measure shall be within the discretionary authority of the Secretary-General or officials with delegated authority". Within those parameters, the Secretary-General has broad discretion in determining what constitutes misconduct and in imposing disciplinary measures.

10. Examples of conduct for which disciplinary measures may be imposed are listed in section 2 of ST/AI/371, as amended by ST/AI/371/Amend.1, and section 3.5 of ST/AI/2017/1. Reference may also be made to the Secretary-General's bulletin on the prohibition of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority (ST/SGB/2008/5), the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13) and the Secretary-General's bulletin on protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits or investigations (ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev.1).

## B. New administrative instruction on unsatisfactory conduct, investigations and the disciplinary process

11. On 26 October 2017, the Under-Secretary-General for Management promulgated an administrative instruction on unsatisfactory conduct, investigations and the disciplinary process (ST/AI/2017/1). In accordance with the transitional arrangements, investigations and disciplinary processes initiated before 26 October 2017 shall continue to be governed by the provisions of ST/AI/371, as amended by ST/AI/371/Amend.1.

12. Under the provisions of ST/AI/2017/1, all allegations of unsatisfactory conduct should be brought to the attention of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). After receiving an allegation of unsatisfactory conduct, OIOS may decide either to consider the allegation or to refer it to a manager for assessment and possible investigation. OIOS should be apprised of decisions made by managers in relation to allegations of unsatisfactory conduct. These provisions are in line with the decision and requests made by the General Assembly in paragraphs 11 to 13 of its resolution 59/287, including the request for the creation of an administrative mechanism for the mandatory reporting by programme managers of allegations of misconduct to OIOS.

13. Section 6 of ST/AI/2017/1 contains minimum standards for the conduct of investigations. Certain new procedures are also outlined for staff members who are the subject of an investigation. For instance, such staff members must be notified in writing, prior to or at the start of an investigative interview, that they are the subject of an investigation and of the nature of the allegations against them. In addition, such staff members may now be accompanied by another staff member of their choice to act as an observer during the interview.

14. ST/AI/2017/1 also sets out the circumstances in which a staff member may be placed on administrative leave with or without pay in accordance with staff rule 10.4 (a). In this regard, a staff member may be placed on administrative leave at any time after an allegation of misconduct, and the period of administrative leave may continue until the completion of the disciplinary process. Depending on the circumstances of a case, administrative leave may be with pay or without pay. As reflected in ST/AI/2017/1, staff rule 10.4 (c) provides that, for cases of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, a staff member may be placed on administrative leave without pay when there are reasonable grounds to believe (probable cause) that the staff member engaged in the sexual exploitation or sexual abuse. ST/AI/2017/1 specifies that, in cases where a staff member is placed on administrative leave without pay, the staff member will continue to maintain some entitlements and benefits.

15. Other matters addressed in the new administrative instruction include the sharing of information by the Organization with member organizations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the placement of a note in the official status files of former staff members.

## C. Disciplinary process

16. Sections 7 to 9 of ST/AI/2017/1 contain a step-by-step summary of how matters are dealt with following the completion of an investigation, including details about the disciplinary process. The provisions of ST/AI/2017/1 reflect in large part the procedures that were already in place prior to its promulgation. Investigations that are completed by OIOS may be referred directly to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management for a decision on whether to pursue the matter as a disciplinary case. Where an investigation has been conducted under the head of office or another responsible official and the responsible official is of the view that misconduct may have occurred, the matter shall be referred to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management for a decision on whether to pursue the matter as a disciplinary case.

17. If the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management decides to initiate a disciplinary process, the staff member shall be notified in writing of the allegations of misconduct and informed of the staff member's right to comment on the allegations and to seek the assistance of counsel in the staff member's defence through the Office of Staff Legal Assistance or from outside counsel at the staff member's own expense. The staff member is given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegations of misconduct. In the light of the comments provided by the staff member, the Assistant Secretary-General shall decide whether to close the case, with or without administrative action, or to recommend the imposition of one or more disciplinary measures. In the latter case, the Under-Secretary-General for Management shall decide whether to impose one or more of the disciplinary measures provided for in staff rule 10.2 (a). The Under-Secretary-General for Management may also decide to impose one or more administrative measures. In some cases, the first

step taken with respect to a matter referred to the Office of Human Resources Management is not to initiate a disciplinary process but rather to request the staff member to provide comments. The request for comments shall be made, inter alia, in compliance with staff rule 10.2 (c) if the issuance of a reprimand is being contemplated and to assist the Office in deciding whether to initiate a disciplinary process.

18. In accordance with staff rule 10.3 (c), a staff member against whom a disciplinary measure has been imposed may submit an application to the United Nations Dispute Tribunal challenging the imposition of the measure in accordance with chapter XI of the Staff Rules.[2]

## D. Disciplinary measures

19. Staff rule 10.2 (a) provides that disciplinary measures may take one or more of the following forms (i.e. more than one measure may be imposed in each case):

(a) Written censure;

(b) Loss of one or more steps in grade;

(c) Deferment, for a specified period, of eligibility for salary increment;

(d) Suspension without pay for a specified period;

(e) Fine;

(f) Deferment, for a specified period, of eligibility for consideration for promotion;

(g) Demotion, with deferment, for a specified period, of eligibility for consideration for promotion;

(h) Separation from service, with notice or compensation in lieu of notice, and with or without termination indemnity;

(i) Dismissal.

20. In determining the appropriate measure, each case is decided on its own merits, taking into account the particulars of the case, including aggravating and mitigating circumstances. In addition, in accordance with staff rule 10.3 (b), disciplinary measures imposed must be proportionate to the nature and gravity of the misconduct involved. Given the thoroughness of the review involved to assess the unique facts and features of each case, the specific sanction that applies to a specific type of misconduct cannot be determined in advance or applied across the board.

## E. Other measures

21. Written or oral reprimands, recovery of moneys owed to the Organization and administrative leave with or without pay are not considered disciplinary measures. Reprimands are administrative measures that are important for upholding standards of proper conduct and promoting accountability. Written reprimands are placed on the staff member's official status file. Warnings or letters of caution are managerial measures directed at fostering awareness of the proper standards of conduct. In

[2] Judgments of the United Nations Dispute and Appeals Tribunals relating to disciplinary cases may be found on the website of the Office of the Administration of Justice (www.un.org/en/oaj).

addition, where conduct that may amount to misconduct has an impact on performance, the issue may be addressed in the context of performance management. This may include training, counselling, the non-renewal of a contract or the termination of an appointment. The new administrative instruction (ST/AI/2017/1) contains specific provisions on administrative and managerial actions taken by programme managers in the light of unsatisfactory conduct by a staff member.

22. The new administrative instruction also contains specific provisions on the recovery of financial loss to the Organization pursuant to staff rule 10.1 (b) in cases where the loss results from actions or omissions that are wilful, reckless or grossly negligent.

23. Under article 10.8 of the statute of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and article 9.5 of the statute of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, each of the Tribunals may refer appropriate cases to the Secretary-General or the executive heads of separately administered United Nations funds and programmes for possible action to enforce accountability. Such action may include the initiation of an investigation and a disciplinary process.

## III. Summary of cases in which disciplinary measures were imposed during the period from 1 July to 31 December 2017[3]

24. For each case that led to the imposition of one or more disciplinary measures, a summary is provided below indicating the nature of the misconduct and the disciplinary measure or measures imposed by the Secretary-General. The functional title of the staff members or other particulars relating thereto are provided only when they played a role in determining the measures to be taken. Conduct issues that were dealt with by means other than disciplinary measures are not listed, although statistical information about such cases is provided in Section IV below.

25. As noted above, both aggravating and mitigating circumstances may be taken into account in determining a sanction, and these vary according to the unique facts and circumstances of a case. Examples of possible aggravating circumstances are the repetition of acts of misconduct, the intent to derive personal benefit and the degree of harm resulting from the misconduct. Examples of possible mitigating circumstances are sincere remorse and the voluntary disclosure of the acts of misconduct early in the process.

26. Not every case brought to the attention of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management indicating possible misconduct results in disciplinary or other measures being taken. When a review by the Office of Human Resources Management reveals that there is insufficient evidence to pursue a matter as a disciplinary case, or when a staff member provides a satisfactory explanation in response to the formal allegations of misconduct, the case is closed. Cases will also typically be closed when a staff member retires or otherwise separates from the Organization before an investigation or the disciplinary process is concluded, unless continuation is in the interest of the Organization. In the vast majority of cases involving former staff members, a record is made and placed in the former staff member's official status file so that the matter may be further considered if and when the staff member rejoins the Organization. In this regard, section 3.9 of the

[3] Information contained in the summaries is correct as at the date of submission of the present report.

administrative instruction on the administration of fixed-term appointments (ST/AI/2013/1) provides that a former staff member "will be ineligible for re-employment following ... resignation during an investigation of misconduct or institution of a disciplinary process, unless the former staff member agrees to cooperate with an ongoing investigation or disciplinary process until its conclusion". Where relevant, this provision is noted in records placed in official status files. This process is set out in section 9.9 of ST/AI/2017/1.[4]

27. In paragraph 23 of its resolution 68/252, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to mitigate and recoup any losses arising from misconduct by staff members and to report thereon. As the summaries of the cases below indicate, in the majority of the cases where there was a quantifiable loss to the Organization, the Organization either recovered the relevant property and/or funds, the staff member repaid the funds at issue or the Under-Secretary-General for Management decided to recover an amount equal to the financial loss. As outlined in sections 9.5 and 9.6 of ST/AI/2017/1, the recovery of financial losses to the Organization is effected under staff rule 10.1 (b), which provides that where conduct is determined by the Secretary-General to constitute misconduct and the Organization has suffered a financial loss as a result of the staff member's actions, which are also determined to be wilful, reckless or grossly negligent, such staff member may be required to reimburse the Organization for such loss in whole or in part.

## A. Abuse of authority, harassment and discrimination

28. A staff member created an intimidating, hostile and offensive work environment for two staff members by repeatedly and publicly accusing them of incompetence in the execution of their functions and by verbally abusing them. *Disposition*: deferment, for two years, of eligibility for consideration for promotion, a fine in the amount of one month's net base salary and loss of two steps in grade. *Appeal*: the time for appeal has not expired.

29. A staff member, who held the position of a security officer, verbally abused three United Nations Police officers and transported a civilian in a United Nations vehicle without authorization. There were mitigating factors, including the staff member's long service with the Organization. *Disposition*: written censure and loss of two steps in grade. *Appeal*: none.

## B. Misrepresentation and false certification

30. A senior staff member altered written records held in connection with a recruitment process. There were mitigating factors, including an early admission, no resulting personal gain and no effect on the outcome of the recruitment process.

[4] A screening/vetting tool is under development by the Office of Information and Communications Technology, with the collaboration of other internal stakeholders, to implement the objective outlined by the Secretary-General in his reports to the General Assembly on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/69/779 and A/71/818) to create and maintain a centralized database of substantiated and certain other allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse that is accessible across United Nations entities. For more information, see paragraphs 22 and 23 of the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/72/751).

*Disposition*: censure and a fine of one month's net base salary. *Appeal*: the time for appeal has not expired.

31. A staff member participated in the creation of fraudulent visa applications in exchange for money. *Disposition*: separation from service with compensation in lieu of notice and without termination indemnity. *Appeal*: none.

32. A staff member offered to assist one or more persons external to the Organization with securing United Nations employment in exchange for money. *Disposition*: separation from service with compensation in lieu of notice and without termination indemnity. *Appeal*: filed with the Dispute Tribunal, but the application was denied (receivability).

## C. Unauthorized outside activities and conflict of interest

33. Without authorization, a staff member engaged in outside activities relating to private legal services. *Disposition*: demotion by one grade with deferment, for one year, of eligibility for consideration for promotion. *Appeal*: none.

34. A staff member engaged in unauthorized outside activities, including public activities. There were mitigating factors, including an early admission and long service with the Organization. *Disposition*: written censure. *Appeal*: the time for appeal has not expired.

35. A staff member engaged in the unauthorized outside activity of the ownership and operation of a company that offered printing and design services, including to United Nations agencies. There were mitigating factors, including an early admission and long service with the Organization. *Disposition*: loss of two steps in grade, deferment, for a period of two years, of eligibility for consideration for promotion and a fine of three months' net base salary. *Appeal*: the time for appeal has not expired.

36. A staff member engaged in outside employment by working as a consultant for the Organization without authorization. There were mitigating factors, including an early admission. *Disposition*: written censure, loss of two steps in grade and a fine equivalent to three months' net base salary. *Appeal*: none.

## D. Assault and abusive conduct

37. A staff member physically assaulted one or more family members. There were mitigating factors, including the staff member's early admission. *Disposition*: separation from service with compensation in lieu of notice and without termination indemnity. *Appeal*: the time for appeal has not expired.

38. A security staff member physically assaulted another staff member, who was under his supervision. *Disposition*: separation from service with compensation in lieu of notice and without termination indemnity. *Appeal*: the time for appeal has not expired.

39. A security staff member physically assaulted another staff member, who supervised him. The fact that the physical altercation was reciprocal was considered to be a mitigating factor. *Disposition*: separation from service with compensation in lieu of notice and without termination indemnity. *Appeal*: the time for appeal has not expired.

### E. Failure to honour private obligations

40. A senior staff member failed to honour his private legal obligations relating to the payment of rent. There were aggravating factors, including the fact that the conduct harmed the reputation of the Organization in the host country. *Disposition*: written censure and a loss of four steps in grade. *Appeal*: filed with the Dispute Tribunal.

### F. Misuse of United Nations property and assets

41. A staff member used a very high frequency radio that had been issued to him for duty purposes as security for a personal loan. There were mitigating factors, including an early admission. *Disposition*: separation from service with compensation in lieu of notice and with termination indemnity. *Appeal*: none.

## IV. Data on cases received and completed during the reporting period

### A. Cases completed during the reporting period

Table 1
**Disposition of cases completed between 1 July and 31 December 2017**

| *Disposition* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Dismissal | – |
| Separation from service, with notice or compensation in lieu of notice and with or without termination indemnity | 6 |
| Other disciplinary measures | 8 |
| Administrative measures | 3 |
| Closed with no measure | 1 |
| Not pursued as a disciplinary matter | 8 |
| Separation of the staff member prior to or after referral of the case to the Office of Human Resources Management prior to the completion of the disciplinary process | 21 |
| Other | 3 |
| **Total** | **50** |

### B. Appeals against disciplinary measures

Table 2
**Disposition of the appeals contesting disciplinary measures imposed between 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2017**

| *Disposition* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Win by the respondent and cases withdrawn by staff member at the Dispute or Appeals Tribunal[a] | 44 | 80 |
| Settled | 8 | 14.5 |

| *Disposition* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Overall loss by respondent[b] | 3 | 5.5 |
| **Total** | **55** | **100** |
| Staff member's appeal pending at the Dispute or Appeals Tribunal or time for appeal to the Appeals Tribunal has not expired | 22 | |

[a] This number includes cases in which: the respondent prevailed at the Dispute Tribunal and there was no appeal by the staff member to the Appeals Tribunal; the respondent prevailed at the Dispute Tribunal and at the Appeals Tribunal; the staff member prevailed at the Dispute Tribunal but the respondent prevailed at the Appeals Tribunal; or the staff member's appeal to the Dispute Tribunal was withdrawn.

[b] The number includes cases in which: the respondent prevailed at the Dispute Tribunal but the staff member prevailed at the Appeals Tribunal; or the staff member prevailed at the Dispute Tribunal and there was no appeal filed by the respondent to the Appeals Tribunal.

## C. Cases received by the Office of Human Resources Management

42. The tables in the present section provide information on the number and types of cases referred to the Office of Human Resources Management for possible disciplinary action during the period covered by the present report.

Table 3
**Source of cases received by the Office of Human Resources Management between 1 July and 31 December 2017**

| *Source* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Cases relating to staff based at United Nations Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters | 16 | 31 |
| Cases relating to field staff | 36 | 69 |
| **Total** | **52** | **100** |

Table 4
**Cases received between 1 July and 31 December 2017, by type of misconduct**

| *Type of misconduct* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Abuse of authority/harassment/discrimination | 8[a] |
| Assault (verbal and physical) | 3 |
| Misrepresentation and false certification | 12 |
| Inappropriate or disruptive behaviour | 2 |
| Misuse of United Nations property or assets | 4 |
| Failure to honour private legal obligations | 1 |
| Failure to report | 1 |
| Sexual exploitation and abuse | 5 |
| Theft and misappropriation | 4 |
| Unauthorized outside activities and conflict of interest | 6 |
| Violation of local laws | 2 |

| *Type of misconduct* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Procurement irregularities | 2 |
| Other | 2 |
| **Total** | **52** |

[a] The Office of Human Resources Management received no cases of sexual harassment during the reporting period.

## V. Possible criminal behaviour

43. In its resolution 59/287, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take action expeditiously in cases of proven misconduct and/or criminal behaviour and to inform Member States about the actions taken. During the reporting period, nine cases involving credible allegations of criminal conduct by United Nations officials or experts on mission were referred to Member States.

## VI. Conclusion

44. The Secretary-General invites the General Assembly to take note of the present report.

United Nations A/73/72

General Assembly

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26 February 2018

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**Seventy-third session**
Item 114 (d) of the preliminary list*
**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

## Note verbale dated 22 February 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat and, with reference to Italy's candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2019–2021, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, has the honour to enclose herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Government of Italy to the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex).

* A/73/50.

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## Annex to the note verbale dated 22 February 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

## Candidature of Italy to the Human Rights Council, 2019–2021

### Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. Having completed its second term, from 2011 to 2014, and having continued, to date, to remain engaged and committed as an observer member, Italy is proud to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the 2019–2021 period. Italy believes that the Council can be pivotal for crisis prevention and for providing a sustainable and just world for all, in the conviction that there cannot be long-lasting peace when human rights are not respected. In this spirit, its election to the Human Rights Council would enable Italy to contribute more actively to the Council's activities and play a key role in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.

2. The protection and promotion of human rights represents a firm and sustained priority of Italy's foreign policy. Italian action is based on the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of human rights. Italy strongly believes that dialogue and cooperation among Member States can contribute to promoting and protecting human rights and that technical assistance and capacity-building are important tools for supporting Member States in complying with their obligations and in preventing human rights violations worldwide. Italy works actively to mainstream human rights into law, policy and practice and to expand the space for civil society.

3. Italian action for promoting and protecting human rights will support the integrated approach of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, food security, healthy lives and well-being for all and at fighting poverty.

4. Italy has ratified all major international conventions on the protection and promotion of human rights, including all major International Labour Organization conventions.

5. Italy actively promoted the establishment of the International Criminal Court in the belief that the cause of peace can be served only if those responsible for the most serious crimes having an international impact are prosecuted and brought to justice. Italy hosted in Rome, almost 20 years ago, the United Nations conference that led to the adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court, which Italy signed immediately and ratified the following year. Italy strongly supports and promotes the Court and its crucial work and will continue to do so in the belief that no long-lasting peace is possible without justice.

6. At the regional level, Italy ratified the most important human rights treaties and fully recognizes the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights.

7. Italy was considered under consecutive cycles of the universal periodic review and its mechanism, which it firmly supported.

8. Since the second cycle of the universal periodic review, in 2014, Italy has further enhanced the protection and promotion of human rights at the national level. A non-exhaustive list of achievements includes: withdrawing its two remaining

reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; adopting its first national action plan on business and human rights in accordance with relevant 2011 United Nations guidelines; adopting its third national action plan on women and peace and security; adopting the decrees implementing the 2016 legislation on civil unions for same-sex couples; establishing a solidarity fund for victims of discrimination; launching the extraordinary national action plan against sexual and gender-based violence; establishing anti-violence centres and women's shelters; launching the first national action plan against trafficking and serious exploitation of human beings; reinforcing national measures for fostering interreligious dialogue; adopting a comprehensive legal framework concerning the protection of foreign unaccompanied minors; establishing the national authority for the protection of detainees' and prisoners' rights (national preventive mechanism); and introducing the crime of torture in its legal system.

9. Italy has an effective partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and fully cooperates with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to which it has issued a standing invitation.

10. Italy submits in a timely and thorough manner its periodic reports to the treaty bodies of the United Nations on the implementation of its human rights obligations under international law.

11. In this framework, Italy will:

- Actively engage and work constructively within the Human Rights Council and other bodies and mechanisms that have been or will be established under it, taking into consideration the key role that human rights promotion and protection play in conflict prevention and in fostering long-term peaceful settlements of conflict
- Work with determination to further improve the effectiveness, including in the implementation phase, of the universal periodic review process, in which Italy has participated since its establishment, in a spirit of constructive dialogue
- Continue to support the activities and the work of the special procedures established by the Human Rights Council, including by fostering joint participation in interactive dialogues
- Continue to prevent and combat international crimes and impunity, including by taking concrete steps to ensure the accountability of perpetrators
- Continue to support initiatives for responding promptly to human rights emergencies
- Further promote human rights education and undertake awareness campaigns on the importance of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Enhance the role of civil society, in particular in the formulation and implementation of human rights policy and programmes, including in the areas of early warning and prevention; support the participation of civil society organizations in the Human Rights Council; and establish new channels for collaboration and dialogue with civil society organizations

12. A sustained effort is needed to eradicate racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance and all forms of discrimination, including when based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Italy maintains a firm and active stance in the fight against all forms of intolerance and discrimination, being actively involved in the main relevant international initiatives on the issue. The principle of

non-discrimination, in law and in practice, and the principle of dignity for everyone are at the heart of Italian foreign policy with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The best way to combat discriminatory attitudes and behaviours is through the adoption and implementation of ad hoc laws, education and dialogue among cultures. Italy is part of the Equal Rights Coalition and actively supports all of its initiatives to promote and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Italy is a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex core group in New York.

13. In this framework, Italy will:

- Continue to support specific initiatives and resolutions presented to the Human Rights Council to prevent and combat racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance and all forms of discrimination, including when based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Further promote ambitious educational programmes to help eradicate all forms of discrimination
- Further support the engagement of civil society organizations in the fight against all forms of discrimination
- Further prevent and combat the diffusion of hate speech, including online

14. The protection and promotion of women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment represent key priorities for Italy's international action, both in multilateral contexts and in its bilateral relations. Italy is party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and actively participates in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Italy ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and continues to encourage its wider ratification. Italy strongly supports international campaigns for the eradication of harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, including by promoting and actively participating in the negotiations on related resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. Italy supports international initiatives to prevent sexual violence in conflict and emergency situations and is part of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.

15. Italy attaches great importance to ensuring the full and active participation of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in post-conflict cooperation efforts, in keeping with the women and peace and security agenda of the Security Council. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2017, Italy launched the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network with the aim of increasing the participation of women in conflict prevention and mediation, a multi-year initiative that we hope will contribute to enhancing women's participation and capacity-building in such a critical field.

16. In this framework, Italy will:

- Continue working with determination to prevent and combat violence against women in all its forms, including by implementing a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and by continuing its support for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and programmes related to women
- Actively support, together with other regional groups and countries, international campaigns for the eradication of harmful practices

- Undertake actions to empower women and girls and to advance their human rights and empowerment as a matter of priority and in line with the 2030 Agenda
- Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive and in compliance with humanitarian policies on women's empowerment and women's rights

17. Italy attaches the utmost importance to the rights of children, especially those in situations of vulnerability, such as conflict and post-conflict contexts, and situations of poverty, underdevelopment and social tension. Italy ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (2016) and recognized the competence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to receive and consider communications in which a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations (see article 12 of the Protocol). Italy actively participates in the negotiations of the resolutions on the rights of the child adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. During its presidency of the Security Council, in November 2017, Italy promoted the adoption of resolution 2388 (2017) on trafficking in persons. The resolution contains a number of paragraphs aiming at the protection of children who are victims of trafficking, particularly those who are unaccompanied, in terms of identification, assistance, health care, education and exemption from detention. The promotion and protection of children's rights in armed conflict is also an integral part of Italy's international commitment to children's rights. Italy is a member of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict, which brings together States committed to advancing this issue at the United Nations. During its term of Security Council membership, Italy promoted the introduction of specific provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of United Nations peace operations.

18. In this framework, Italy will continue:

- To actively support international initiatives and programmes aimed at preventing and combating the involvement of children in armed conflict
- To prevent and combat child pornography, support child victims of violence, sexual abuse and trafficking and take all steps necessary to strengthen international cooperation for the investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, supporting the work of the competent special procedures and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children
- To promote initiatives aimed at fostering education for all children, adolescents and young people, enabling adolescents and young people to be agents of positive transformation
- To support initiatives and programmes to ensure the enjoyment by all children of their economic, social and cultural rights, without discrimination, contributing to the creation of a safe and enabling environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured

19. The universal moratorium of the death penalty is an important priority of the Italian Government. Italy is firmly convinced that the moratorium contributes to the enhancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Italy upholds respect for the rule of law, working with determination to develop effective crime prevention and response strategies, to promote increasingly effective and fair justice systems and to combat impunity, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, with particular attention to the rights of children in the justice system. Italian action can

count on the joint commitment of institutions and civil society and is inspired by an inclusive approach and a spirit of cooperation, dialogue, mutual respect and understanding.

20. In this framework, Italy will strengthen its efforts for the adoption of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its abolition and will support national-led initiatives and national debates on this issue.

21. Italy works with determination for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief and the protection of people belonging to religious minorities. Italy attaches great importance to the promotion of pluralism, inclusion and tolerance, as well as cross-cultural, cross-religious and interfaith dialogue. In the United Nations context, Italy supports initiatives for the engagement of religious leaders in the prevention of hate crime. Italy promotes humanitarian and development cooperation programmes to support religious and ethnic communities that are victims of sectarian violence.

22. In this framework, Italy will continue:

- To promote and support initiatives at the international and regional levels to combat religious intolerance and protect all people belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, identifying concrete measures for protecting victims of violence or discrimination
- To promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue
- To support the work of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
- To work closely with the United Nations and other international organizations in order to strengthen the available analysis and assessment tools to identify in a timely and systematic manner the risk of atrocity crimes

23. Trafficking in persons is a serious human rights violation that can represent a crime against humanity and a concerning threat to international peace and security. Italy is actively committed to the fight against trafficking in human beings, as demonstrated by its actions to save thousands of lives in the Mediterranean Sea and by its strong support for the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration. The Italian legal framework is victim centred, human rights oriented and gender and child sensitive, focusing on prevention, the legal protection of all victims and greater involvement of non-governmental organizations and local communities.

24. In this framework, Italy will:

- Continue to support and pursue with determination initiatives to prevent and combat human trafficking in cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations, including to promote the universal ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
- Continue to actively protect the victims of human trafficking at both the national and international levels, paying attention to those in vulnerable situations, such as women and children, including unaccompanied minors
- Promote with determination international law enforcement and judicial cooperation
- Support the activities of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

25. Italy is committed to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. Italy is party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto. The Italian Development Cooperation Agency is strongly engaged with the issue, which is mainstreamed in all of its initiatives, and contributes to the MoveAbility Foundation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Italy pays particular attention to the protection of persons with disabilities in emergency and post-conflict situations.

26. In this framework, Italy will:

- Further promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including by supporting the widest possible accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of its principles
- Develop and implement advocacy and awareness-raising programmes to enhance understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities

27. Cultural heritage is the bedrock of civilization, a testament to human identity, history and prosperity. The right of access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage is a human right guaranteed by international law. The destruction of any item of cultural heritage strikes a blow to the shared cultural heritage of humankind. Unfortunately, these fundamental values have been challenged over the years, with detrimental and irreversible consequences. The preservation of cultural and religious heritage, which is linked firmly to the promotion of freedom of religion or belief, is an important tool for safeguarding the historical and cultural identity of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, and therefore the enjoyment of cultural rights. The destruction of cultural and religious heritage, revealing a determination to eradicate all traces of diversity and different cultural and religious identities in a specific area, has a detrimental impact, including on the stability and pacific coexistence of different communities in that area. Protecting cultural and religious heritage is therefore key not only to protecting the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, but also to fostering peace and stability.

28. Italy promotes initiatives aimed at preventing and countering conduct that destroys and damages cultural heritage and that provides important financial support to criminal and terrorist groups, such as Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), unanimously adopted on 24 March 2017, on the protection of cultural heritage and the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict.

29. Italy will continue to work consistently to promote inclusivity, tolerance and respect for diversity.

30. In this framework, Italy will:

- Actively work, in concert with all other relevant international actors, to protect cultural heritage, with a view to promoting universal respect for cultural rights
- Support the activities of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

31. Human rights defenders play an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights at the local, national, regional and international levels by raising awareness on human rights issues and promoting higher standards of protection. Italy recognizes the importance of civil society, in the shared belief that a vibrant civil society contributes to democratic and pluralistic societies, stability and prosperity.

32. In this framework, Italy will:

- Continue to actively support human rights defenders and step up its efforts against all forms of reprisal with a view to creating a safe and enabling environment in which human rights defenders can operate free from hindrance and insecurity
- Support the activities of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
- Promote an ongoing open dialogue with civil society organizations active in the promotion and protection of human rights, involving them in the drafting of actions and policies through permanent consultative mechanisms

# A/73/73

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**Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories**

# Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/94 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities made available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/73/50.

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# I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX), Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training at the university standard but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI), offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme has been included in successive editions of the guide entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions, the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized. The previous report on the subject is contained in document A/72/66/Rev.1 and A/72/66/Add.1. The present report, which covers the period from 9 February 2017 to 2 March 2018, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 72/94.

# II. Scholarship offers and awards

## A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 64 Member States listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant General Assembly resolutions:

> Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State, the Holy See, has also offered scholarships.

## B. Offers and awards

### Argentina

7. In a note verbale dated 15 January 2018, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 2065 (XX) and in subsequent resolutions, and the Special Committee on decolonization have described the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation, as it involves a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; have established that the way to put an end to that situation is the peaceful and negotiated solution of the sovereignty dispute; and have requested both Governments to proceed without delay with bilateral negotiations.

Despite the illegal British occupation, because the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands are part of the Argentine national territory, their inhabitants have equality of access with the rest of the Argentine population to the Argentine public education system. This includes free education at the primary, secondary and tertiary/university levels, as well as the benefits of the national scholarship programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Argentine Republic.

**Canada**

8. In a note verbale dated 23 January 2018, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

Between 2009 and 2017, 14 students, faculty and researchers from Non-Self-Governing Territories received scholarships from six different Global Affairs Canada scholarship programmes (see tables 1 and 2). All inhabitants from Non-Self-Governing Territories are eligible to apply for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships and the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships, Canada's most prestigious awards for doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, respectively, working in the health sciences, natural sciences and engineering, and social sciences and humanities. For other scholarships offered by the Government of Canada, see www.scholarships.gc.ca.

Table 1
**Scholarship programmes offered to Non-Self-Governing Territories**

| *Non-Self-Governing Territory* | *Global Affairs Canada scholarship programme* |
|---|---|
| Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat | Canada-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Leadership Scholarships Programme |
| | Canada-CARICOM Virtual University Scholarship Programme |
| | Emerging Leaders in the Americas Programme |
| | Canada-CARICOM Faculty Leadership Programme |
| Saint Helena | Emerging Leaders in the Americas Programme |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | Canada-CARICOM Virtual University Scholarship |
| | Canada-CARICOM Virtual University Scholarship Programme |

| *Non-Self-Governing Territory* | *Global Affairs Canada scholarship programme* |
|---|---|
| | Emerging Leaders in the Americas Programme |
| | Canada-CARICOM Faculty Leadership Programme |
| | Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship |

Table 2
**Number of scholarships awarded by Global Affairs Canada between 2009 and 2017, by Territory**

| *Non-Self-Governing Territory* | *No. of scholarships awarded* |
|---|---|
| Anguilla | 0 |
| Bermuda | 1 |
| British Virgin Islands | 1 |
| Cayman Islands | 11 |
| Montserrat | 1 |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | 0 |
| Saint Helena | 0 |
| **Total** | **14** |

*Note*: Canadians are eligible to apply to the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship and study or research in Non-Self-Governing Territories, as long as there is an agreement between the Canadian and non-Canadian institutions.

## Cuba

9. In a note verbale dated 29 January 2018, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> Contribution of the Republic of Cuba to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 72/94 entitled "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories", adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017.

**Scholarship recipients from Non-Self-Governing Territories who graduated in Cuba during the 2016–2017 academic year**

| *Territory* | *MINSAP* | *MES* |
|---|---|---|
| Western Sahara | 19 | 3 |
| **Total** | **19** | **3** |

**Scholarship recipients from Non-Self-Governing Territories studying in Cuba 2017–2018**

| *Territory* | *MINSAP* | *MES* |
|---|---|---|
| Western Sahara | 96 | 14 |
| **Total** | **96** | **14** |

**Scholarship recipients from Non-Self-Governing Territories who have graduated in Cuba as of 2017**

| | | | | *MINED* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Territory* | *MINSAP* | *MES* | *INDER* | *Higher secondary* | *Secondary* | *Total* |
| Anguilla | 1 | 2 | | | | 3 |
| Bermuda | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Montserrat | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Western Sahara | 363 | 1 086 | 16 | 199 | 1 212 | 2 876 |
| **Total** | **365** | **1 090** | **16** | **199** | **1 212** | **2 882** |

**Scholarships offered to Non-Self-Governing Territories 2017–2018**

| *Territory* | *MINSAP* | *MES* |
|---|---|---|
| Western Sahara | 5 | 38 |
| **Total** | **5** | **38** |

*Abbreviations*: INDER (Instituto Nacional de Deportes, Educación Física y Recreación), National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation; MES (Ministerio de Educación Superior), Ministry of Higher Education; MINED (Ministerio de Educación), Ministry of Education; MINSAP (Ministerio de Salud Pública), Ministry of Public Health.

### Germany

10. In a communication dated 25 January 2018, the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> The Federal Foreign Office funds the higher education scholarship programme for refugees of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative. In 2017, 80 students from Western Sahara participated in the programme and received a scholarship from the Initiative for their studies in Algeria. For more information, see www.unhcr.org/dafi-scholarships.html.
>
> The Federal Foreign Office also provides yearly grants to the Goethe Institute, which has the mandate to promote knowledge of German language and culture abroad. The Goethe Institute offers scholarships for German teachers to participate in various didactic trainings in Germany. In previous years, nationals from Bermuda, Guam and Montserrat and have received scholarships.

**Lithuania**

11. In a communication dated 26 January 2018, the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> As at 31 December 2017 the Republic of Lithuania had not granted any offers of study and training facilities for the above-mentioned category of applicants.
>
> In accordance with the existing legal regulation of Lithuania, only Lithuanian language courses and studies can be partially subsidized by the State. Detailed information about course proposals and scholarships is published online, see www.smpf.lt.

**Malta**

12. In a communication dated 31 January 2018, the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> No scholarships were offered by the Government of Malta to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

**New Zealand**

13. In a note verbale dated 29 January 2018, the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> The Government of New Zealand provides budget support to the Government of Tokelau for the delivery of education services ranging from early childhood education to foundation courses for tertiary study. The Government of New Zealand has contracted the Centre for Educational Development of Massey University to work closely with Tokelau's Department of Education and its schools to improve the education system in Tokelau. In 2018, Tokelau's education system will be reviewed by the Education Review Office of New Zealand and the results will help determine the areas in which New Zealand can offer further support.
>
> The Government of New Zealand offers access to short-term training awards to assist Tokelauans in the workforce to gain relevant knowledge and skills. The most recent graduate of this programme received the qualification of chief mate, which will enable him to work in Tokelau's maritime transport sector, a critical enabler of the nation's development.
>
> Residents of Tokelau benefit from workshops and customized training delivered by various programmes funded by the Government of New Zealand. In 2017, for example, support was offered to Tokelau through New Zealand's "Partnership for Pacific Policing", a prevention-based policing programme.
>
> As New Zealand citizens, Tokelauans who are residents in New Zealand are eligible for a range of domestic scholarships, as well as Government-subsidized access to education facilities in New Zealand.
>
> The Government of Tokelau provides scholarships for students to attend tertiary institutions, primarily in the Pacific region.

**Philippines**

14. In a communication dated 5 February 2018, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> Philippine Government agencies currently do not offer training scholarships for students of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

15. In a communication dated 31 January 2018, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> Education in the British overseas territories is a domestic issue and, therefore, under their constitutions, is the responsibility of the locally elected Government. It is a matter of domestic policy for the Government of each overseas territory to determine what proportion of their national budget is spent on study and training.
>
> Citizens of the overseas territories, who are also British citizens, have access to institutions for further and higher education in the United Kingdom. Students from the overseas territories are charged the home-fee rate for further education and higher education courses at colleges and universities in the United Kingdom. This means that students from the overseas territories are treated on an equal footing with students from the United Kingdom.
>
> In addition, in 2017/2018, the United Kingdom offered eight Chevening Scholarships (covering studies in good governance, financial management, public administration and law, commercial/economic development, and the environment) to students from the overseas territories, set out in the table below:

**Chevening Scholarships awarded in 2017/2018**

| *Territory* | *Scholars*[a] |
|---|---|
| Turks and Caicos Islands | 1 |
| Montserrat | 2 |
| Anguilla | 3 |
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | 1 |

[a] One scholar from the British Virgin Islands subsequently declined their place.

## III. Applications made through the United Nations

16. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

17. From 9 February 2017 to 2 March 2018, no requests for information on the availability of scholarships were received by the Secretariat.

## IV. Conclusion

18. Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.